



# TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

Community Planning & Physical Services Committee  
Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Room 312

May 15, 2019

8:00 AM

## MINUTES

In attendance: Ben Wenograd (Chair), Dallas Dodge, Mary Fay, Shari Cantor (phone), Beth Kerrigan (phone), Matt Hart, Mark McGovern, Duane Martin and Todd Dumais

1. Call to Order – 8:00

2. Business Items

a. Review of MDC and Town Responsibilities Regarding Storm and Ground Water

Duane Martin detailed the Town's infrastructure that includes 180 miles of pipe, 7,600 catch basins, 2,200 man holes and 430 outfalls, all of which have been update in our GIS. Most are in the Right of Way (ROW), but some pipes cross under public and private property.

Investigating problems and determining responsible parties can be challenging and includes the use of dye tests and video. Approximately \$400,000 is expended each year to repair pipes that have failed and created sink holes and settlements.

The Town system was not designed to deal with major storm events. Current problems include street flooding in some areas and basement flooding in others. High groundwater and poor draining soils exacerbate the problem. Improvements are challenging due to grade and other utilities in the ROW. Solutions will be costly and include the Town, MDC and property owners collectively. The Town's responsibility and focus will be in the ROW while MDC will focus on transferring private/home connections from sanitary to storm lines.

The Town is proceeding with a drainage study over two years that will analyze 6 sewer shed areas and produce improvement alternatives that will lead to design followed by construction.

b. Request for a Complete Streets Exception for the Mountain/Albany Intersection Improvement

Mark McGovern introduced the item which is a proposed exception to the Complete Streets Policy that is required because the Mountain at Albany Intersection Improvement Project includes the elimination of a sidewalk so that a 4 foot bike lane can be included through the intersection.

Duane Martin and Greg Sommer described the project that includes widening Mountain Road as a means of creating greater capacity and improving safety at this intersection. The project is being funded by a \$1.5 million grant from CT DOT, which did not approved the design that kept both the bike lane and sidewalk. Since the sidewalk does not connect to another one and there are many more cyclists than pedestrians, the preferred design eliminates a section of the sidewalk. Efforts to extend the sidewalk north of Albany was also met with opposition by adjacent property owners who would have needed to provide an easement to make work.

Extensive outreach was conducted at all phases of this design and the elimination of the sidewalk is supported by the adjacent condominiums associate. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission (PBC) does not support the elimination of complete streets element and is concerned about precedent. Councilor Wenograd asked questions about alternatives and staff described the consideration of shared paths and bike boxes. He asked that the Town Manager submit the resolution authorizing the exception and asked that correspondence from the PBC be included.

c. Trout Brook Trail Construction Update

Duane Martin provided an update on the active phases of the Trout Brook Trail. Phases 1, 2 and 4 have been completed. Phase 3 from Jackson Ave. to Park Road is in design and construction is planned for 2020. Phases 5 (Farmington Ave. to Fern) and 6 (Fern to Duffield) are designed and have received funding awards but require easement and maintenance agreements from CT DEEP. Much of the trail will be on DEEP land within the flood control project. Phase 7 from Duffield to Asylum will be more like a sidewalk and constructed with funding in the capital budget.

Corporation Counsel's Office is working on the final agreements with DEEP and authorizations will be submitted to Council as soon as they are ready.

3. Communications

4. Staff Reports

- a. Public Works
- b. Community Development

Todd Dumais provided an update on the Center area parking initiative. Staff has met several times with neighborhood working groups. A map showing the area west of the Center was used to show proposed changes. Several blocks will have parking restricted to one side of the street with no parking allowed after 11:00 pm (unless an omit is granted). The removal of meters is proposed for Burr Street. Meters were deployed for the first time there 5 years ago but the spaces are going unused and pushing cars further away from the commercial district.

Corporation Counsel's office has recommended an ordinance to address omits, in general. This ordinance will be presented to the Public Safety committee.

Todd Dumais also reported on the update to the Plan of Conservation and Development. Public participation has been completed and drafting is underway and will be done this summer. A final draft must be posted for 65 days prior to finalization. It was agreed that draft chapters will be provided to Council when ready.

c. Other

5. Adjournment - 9:07